

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 4, page 3 of the final Office Action, that claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter; and the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 5 of the final Office Action that claim 14 is allowed. However, based upon teleconferences with Examiner Phan on June 1, 2006 and in May, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance. For example, independent claim 1 is amended to recite that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward in the sitting and in the standing position, consistent with previously presented independent claim 14. A summary of the discussion(s) with the Examiner are incorporated in our remarks as follows.

In numbered paragraph 3, page 2 of the final Office Action, independent claim 1, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,076,304 (Deucher). The May 8, 2006 Advisory Action newly raised an issue that the "claims are still read on the newly reference of Pillot (4,623,194) with a knee restraint (27)." Accordingly, the Examiner's final rejection and the Advisory assertion are respectfully traversed.

As discussed with the Examiner, Applicant has disclosed a raising wheel chair that can include, among other recited features, a lifting device for adjusting the height of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position. As exemplified in Fig. 4, the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom to top. Therefore, on

a lifting operation of the lifting device, a patient in a raising wheel chair, whether sitting or standing, can be moved both upward and forward in the sitting position and in the standing position. Users of the wheel chair can find this very practical. They can, for instance, drive to a shelf without getting too close to the shelf and then operate the lifting device which brings the user not only vertically higher, but also closer to a desired object high up on the shelf.

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 1, which recites a raising wheel chair including, among other features, a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom to top, so that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward in the sitting and in the standing position. Claim 14 similarly recites a raising chair including, among other features, a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device extends from a front region of the wheel frame to a front region of the raising frame and is of such a construction that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward, the lifting operation elevating the foot rest in relation to the wheel frame.

The Deucher patent discloses a motorized erect seat in which the mechanism to erect and lower the seat is formed by a crank drive consisting of drive discs (11 and 13) and crank rods (23 and 24) (e.g., col. 3, lines 27-34). However, as earlier discussed with Examiner Phan, the Deucher patent does not teach or suggest a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom

to top, so that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward in the sitting and in the standing position, as recited in claims 1, and as similarly recited in claim 14.

The Pillot patent discloses a body-supporting device having a first set of means 26 adapted to be fitted on a backrest and a second set of means 27 adapted to be fitted on a footrest assembly 18 (e.g., col. 3, lines 35-41 and 49-67). However, as earlier discussed with Examiner Phan, the Pillot patent does not teach or suggest a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom to top, so that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward in the sitting and in the standing position, as recited in claims 1, and as similarly recited in claim 14.

At least for the foregoing reasons, Applicant's claims 1 and 14 are allowable over the Deucher patent and the Pillot patent. The remaining dependent claims recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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